

## ARTIST PROFILE

## Alex Rantzos

**How did you become involved in the Hellenic Lyceum's "Nurturing Hellenic Heritage the Australian Way" exhibition?**

I had some art work at the ST George name day feast, Kathy Liogas-Stojanovic the president of the lyceum saw my works and asked me to contribute. Also because St George had something to do with it.

**What influenced your decision to accept the invitation?**

Parliament house fountain court exhibition space was a major factor, but also because after many years studying the Indian arts and philosophies, I was called back to pay homage to ancient Greek heritage.

**Was the artwork you are exhibiting especially designed for this event or is it part of your on-going work?**

Yes the art was made specific for this show, although i often paint ancient subject matter and images of christ in different stages, I didn't have hellenic subject matter .

**How did Hellenic culture and/or history influence your work?**

Greeks as explores of new frontiers and unknown areas, in land and in the mind, we traveled into the east, this cross pollination is what fascinates me, The greek marble sculptors who were commissioned to make Sculptures of buddha. The unknown tales of our

culture influence me. Pythagoras spent 25 years in Egypt, isn't that what the elders of this village did they came here for 50 years.

**How are these influences projected in your work?**

I usually paint the subject of explorers, and adventure and the vision and perspective of the seeker.

I painted young Aristotle holding a mirror. The mirror is a symbol for the reflective mind, this method of inductive and deductive reasoning to discover truths.

**A Greek-Australian artist: a blessing or a hurdle in getting recognized by the Australian art community?**

Savvas you're creating and sustaining a myth. It's no more a blessing or curse than being a Greek-Eskimo.

**Once upon not so long ago, the term "Greek-Australian" artists carried a certain stigma. What issues did you have to overcome on a personal basis?**

Is that why those artists have insomnia? Well if you choose a career in business your expected to study the English model, One stigma is that its assumed you have to keep within our Greek tradition in music and philosophy.

**Have you got any projects on the pipeline?**



Always have projects, More photography and I have some works I've seen in my mind that I'd like to try and attempt, subjects in history, the transfiguration of Christ, Alexander

meets the Indian philosopher Dandalis.

**Finally, a message to the Greek-Australian community.**

Take a walk to NSW parliament house, go see the show. Wear white.

## Beirut Hellenic Bank hosts a lunch in honor of The Hon. Greek Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Konstantinos Tsiaras

In Honor of the Greek Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr. Konstantinos Tsiaras, Beirut Hellenic Bank has proudly hosted a lunch on Sunday 10 March, in the presence His Excellency the Ambassador of Greece, Mr. Haralambos Dafaranos, and prominent Australian-Hellenes involved in bilateral trade and investment relations between Australia, Greece and Cyprus.

Mr. Steven Pambris, Deputy CEO & Head of Credit, welcomed the Hon. Mr. Konstantinos Tsiaras in Australia and thanked His Excellency Mr. Haralambos Dafaranos and the attendees for their presence at this significant gathering.

Mr. Pambris stressed, "The Hellenic Community in Australia have been playing a dynamic role promoting and upholding the Hellenic culture, values and heritage. Doing so, the Hellenic Community has greatly contributed to the growth and prosperity both for Australia and Our Motherland."

In addition, Mr. Soteris Hadjikyriacou, Head Marketing, Branch and Community Development, welcomed guests and stressed on Beirut Hellenic Bank's commitment to be the secure and trusted financial bridge between Australia, Greece and Cyprus.

Mr. Hadjikyriacou added, "Our shareholders acknowledge and highly appreciate the loyalty and support of the Hellenic community for our institution contributing to its growth and success."

Beirut Hellenic Bank is committed to support the Hellenic community guarding their national and cultural heritage in Australia, especially by providing the required banking facilities and advanced products.

